

From the Upper Chamber



Senate Information Office ♦ 201 Legislative Office Building ♦ Atlanta, Georgia ♦ 404.656.0028

Report for Wednesday, February 8, 2006

The fifteenth day of the 2006 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Mark Taylor**.

Senator **Don Thomas** of the 54th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

House Bills 728, 912, 1192, 1197-1199, 1201, 1202, 1207, 1208 and 1210 were read for the first time and assigned to their respective Committees.

There were no reports of Standing Committees, or second reading of Senate Bills and Resolutions. The morning roll call was then taken.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then recognized Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Staton** introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Pastor **David Franklin** of Mabel White Baptist Church in Macon, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then recognized Sen. **Vincent Fort** of the 39th, who took the rostrum to introduce the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **Howard Yager** of Atlanta.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then announced that the state Senate will hold a memorial service for Secretary of the Senate **Frank Eldridge** next week.

Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to speak in fond memory of Secretary **Eldridge** and former state Sen. **Rene Kemp**.

President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1st took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to speak in memory of Secretary **Eldridge** and former Sen. **Rene Kemp**. He also thanked Senate staff members for their hard work over the weekend, assisting with funeral arrangements and other matters.

Sen. **Fort** took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to speak in memory of former Sen. **Rene Kemp**.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** invited the Senate to sign resolutions honoring the lives of Secretary **Eldridge** and Sen. **Rene Kemp**.

Senate Resolutions 805-813 were read and adopted.

President Pro Tem **Johnson** took the well to read a resolution that asks the Senate to grant the powers of the Secretary of the Senate to the Assistant Secretary **Bob Ewing**. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Local Consent Calendar, consisting of Senate Bills 496 and 497, passed by a vote of 48-1.

The Secretary read SB 468, which would establish a grant program for high performance principals who choose to work at a “needs improvement” school.

Sen. **Dan Moody** of the 56th took the well to present the bill, which is a part of the governor’s education plan for 2006. He yielded to questions from Senators **Thompson** of the 33rd and **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47th.

SB 468 passed by a vote of 44-2.

The Secretary read the Committee Substitute to SB 425, which is known as the *Georgia Child, Family and School Communications Act*, and an accompanying amendment.

Sen. **Greg Goggans** of the 7th took the well to present the bill, which would prohibit the transmission certain electronic messages to minors. He explained his amendment to the bill and stated that the bill has the support of the entire Senate.

Amendment 1 was adopted by a vote of 35-0.

The Committee Substitute to SB 425 was adopted as amended by a vote of 42-0.

SB 425 passed by substitute by a vote of 49-0.

The Secretary read SR 803, which recognizes the Rally Foundation for its non-profit work in childhood cancer research.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** and Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd then presented a copy of the resolution to former Atlanta Braves pitcher **Tom Glavine**, who is an official spokesperson of the Rally Foundation.

Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved the Senate stand in recess until the dissolution of the joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate to hear

from U.S. Major General **William Webster**, Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division, and then adjourn until Thursday, February 9, at 9:00 a.m.

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